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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION (06/05): OVERWHELMINGLY
POSITIVE COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CAIRO SPEECH

Summary of Coverage

President Obama's June 4 speech received extensive, overwhelmingly positive coverage in all Palestinian media- broadcast, on-line and print. All dailies lead with front page coverage highlighting Obama's remarks regarding a new beginning with the Muslim world, U.S. opposition to Israeli settlement expansion and support for a resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. All dailies posted the full text of the speech on inside pages. Papers also run numerous articles about Palestinian, Arab and Israeli reaction to the speech, as well as, editorial and analytical pieces. All front pages lead with photos of President Obama delivering his speech to a Cairo audience, visibly pleased by what they hear.

Print and on-line headlines about the speech include:

- [Palestinian Authority spokesperson]
Abu Rudaynah: Obama's speech is the beginning of a new U.S. policy and is a clear message to the Israelis
- In a historic speech to the Muslim World from the Cairo University
Obama: The time has come to halt settlement activities; we will not legitimize their continuation. The only solution to achieve the vision of the two parties, is two states wherein Israelis and Palestinians live in peace and security.
- Pledges to be personally engaged in establishing the Palestinian state and calls on Arabs to take bold positions
Obama: The Palestinian situation is unbearable; the two-state solution serves the interests of Palestine, Israel, America and the world.

- Obama: Settlements require tough choices
- America will not recognize the settlements as legitimate and will not turn its back on the Palestinians in their pursuit to establish an independent state
- Wide Palestinian and Arab satisfaction with Obama's reconciliation speech to the Muslim World

Al-Ayyam runs an exclusive interview with President Obama by prominent Palestinian journalist Wafa Amr, drawn from Amr's participation in the special press roundtable after the speech. The above the fold feature, under a dramatic red font headline, highlights Obama's statement in response to Israel's request for time to review its policy, "60 years of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have passed. We can wait a few more months before making further decisions or taking steps towards resolving the conflict." Amr also notes that the President reiterated his commitment to ending the conflict, but refused to put a timeframe on relaunching the peace process.

The three dailies front page Palestinian Authority (PA) satisfaction with President Obama's speech. PA spokesperson Abu Rudaynah is quoted calling Obama's speech, "a new beginning. It is a different and clear message to the Israelis."

Almost all editorials are positive in tone and reflect Palestinian satisfaction with and admiration for both the speech and President Obama as an American leader who is committed to engaging with the

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Muslim world.

Al-Quds runs an inside cartoon of President Obama addressing Muslims during his speech starting with, "Salam Alaykum" and the pleased Muslim audience answering, "Wa Alaykum Assalam." Al-Ayyam runs a back page cartoon of Palestinians commenting after the speech, "nice words, but what's next?"

Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam run front page coverage of official Israeli comments showing support for President Obama's efforts to "reconcile" with the Arab and Muslim World. According to coverage, Israel shares the President's hopes of achieving regional peace, but declines to acknowledge Obama's statements regarding settlements.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida runs a front page AFP article under the headline, "a new enemy of West Bank settlements: Obama." The article quotes "extremist activist" Nadia Matter noting, "Obama does not scare us."

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida runs an inside AFP article about Syrian politicians and analysts commenting that Obama's speech will be complete only when it is coupled with pressure on Israel to translate speeches into action.

Al-Quds runs separate front page coverage of Arab League Secretary General Musa's reaction to President Obama's Cairo speech. He notes that it "was balanced and respectful and paves the road for positive relations with the Muslim world since it provides a new and clear vision of the conflict." The paper highlights that Musa hoped to see Obama's remarks translated into action and facts on the ground.

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Al-Quds independent daily runs an editorial under the title, "Obama's speech is a blueprint for engagement between Muslims and the West"(06/05): "The most notable thing about Obama's speech is that it touches the heart. It presents historic facts and proves his determination to overcome prejudice towards the Muslim world and the U.S."

2) Hafith Barguti opines in Al-Hayat Al-Jadida official daily under the title, "Obama's reconciliation and Israel's conflict" (06/05):

"Obama's speech is the speech of a president who dreams of achieving balance in the international community... through partnership, justice, and peace."

3) Omar Hilmi Al-Ghul opines in Al-Hayat Al-Jadida official daily under the title, "Were there any surprises in the speech?"(06/05): "Obama's speech was a historic and untraditional speech by all accounts... because of the important information that it presented and the historic facts it highlighted thereby opening a new chapter in relations between the Arab and Muslim world and the U.S. in particular, but also the West in General."

4) Samih Shbayb opines in Al-Ayyam independent daily under the title "Obama's speech is a significant transition" (06/05): "Obama's speech is promising and can be considered an excellent foundation for improving Muslim-Arab relations with the U.S.... a basis... which if used properly, can benefit all."

5)Muhammad Yaghi opines in Al-Ayyam independent daily under the title, "Reading through Obama's speech: A conciliatory tone that

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can almost be considered an apology"(06/05): "Obama's speech says goodbye to Bush's policies and calls for more optimism in the world in preparation for new policies and new bonds between the Arabs and Americans... [Sustaining this goodwill] will now depend on how we can translate these beautiful words into facts."

6) Rajab Abu Sirriyah opines in Al-Ayyam independent daily under the title, "Obama - From managing the crisis to solving it"(06/05): When President Obama addresses the Muslim world, he definitely knows what he is doing. He realizes the significance of the Muslim world and realizes that it is key to U.S. interests, if the U.S. wants to rule the world."

7) Bahir Salih opined on Palestine News Network online service (pnn.ps) under the headline, "You cannot shield yourself from the sun with a sieve,"(6/5): "With his eloquent and serene words, Obama tried to bring Muslims and the U.S closer... In his speech, Obama presented himself and America as angels. Doesn't he know that his soldiers have killed more than one million Muslims in Iraq? Are all of [those Iraqis] 'extremists?' Aren't they just children, women, the elderly and civilians?" Aren't the hundreds of thousands killed in Afghanistan, just civilians as well?"

WALLES